

TOP 10 QUESTIONS ON RELOCATING TO THE WASHINGTON D.C. AREA

1. *What kind of military housing is available in the area? I've been told that the waiting lists are long and the commutes are even longer.*

Navy family housing is available at three primary locations: Bellevue Housing, Washington, D.C., Woodbridge Run Housing, VA, and Summerfield Housing, Landover, MD. The waiting list for government quarters varies but an average wait can range from 0-6 months. Housing may also be available at other military installations in the area. For current housing allowances and housing waiting times, call the Navy's Housing Referral Office at 1-800-210-0139 or access the Navy's online Housing information at <http://www.housing.navy.mil/pcshouse/>

Depending on where you live, where your command is located, and the time of day in which you must report, you are likely to encounter a lengthy commute in the Washington D.C. area. It is not unusual to travel 45-90 minutes one-way if your commute includes rush hour on any of the major arteries.

2. *I am concerned about the local school systems in the Washington, D.C. area. Where should I live to get my kids in the best schools?*

You will find many and varied opinions on the school systems in the Washington, D.C. area. To access specific information about schools in any of the tri-state regions, you are encouraged to explore information online at the following locations:

<http://www.dcregistry.com/>
<http://www.greaterwashington.org/>
<http://www.northernva.com/>
<http://www.k12.dc.us/DCPS>
<http://nsrs.com/>
<http://www.theschoolreport.com/>

3. *Where is the Child Development Center and how long will I have to wait before my child can be enrolled?*

There are many childcare centers in the area because of the many installations that are located in the Washington, D.C. community. The Child Development Center on the Anacostia Annex is located in Building 413 and provides care for 300 children ages 6 weeks to 12 years of age. The Regional Childcare Resource and Referral (RCCRR) office handles all registration and information processes for the Navy Childcare Centers and Family Childcare providers at Anacostia, Indian Head, and Bethesda. They also have resources on schools, non-military childcare centers, and buses in this area.

The RCCRR office advises expectant parents to apply for the waiting list as soon as a pregnancy is confirmed. Families who receive orders to the Naval District Washington may also apply in advance of arrival. Childcare services are available to all military, DoD, and retirees. Priority at the centers is given to single and dual

military and to military members whose spouses are engaged as full-time students or employees.

Applications and information are available at the Regional Childcare Resources and Referral office, (202) 433-3055, Naval Support Activity Washington, Bldg. 414, room 104.

4. *Where can I find the Personal Property Office and how do I file a claim for damaged household goods?*

The Household Goods office is located in the same building as the Navy Family Service Center, Building 150 on the Anacostia Annex. All Household Goods claims must be generated with a DD form 1840 and 1840R and submitted through the claims office within 70 days from the date of delivery. The claims officers can be reached at (202) 685-1194.

5. *We've been told that our household goods will not be available to us for at least 30 days after our arrival. Are there any programs that will assist us with household items until our shipment arrives?*

Hospitality kits are available for use by relocating families. Kits may include pots, pans, utensils, dinnerware, and other kitchen items. Futons, linens, blankets, car seats, and other essential items may also be available for a loan period of 30 days. All items are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Your sponsor may be another excellent resource for surviving the wait for household goods. Often a sponsor and his or her family are willing to loan necessary items until your goods arrive. Be a conscientious borrower! Return all items clean, in good repair, and in a timely manner.

6. *Where is PSD located? Is this where I check in my records?*

The Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) Washington is located on the Anacostia Annex in Building 92. Because there are over 126 commands in the area, several major commands have individual PSDs to service their personnel. A few of these commands and their servicing PSD are listed below. All other commands should verify their PSD locations and determine in-processing procedures through PSD Washington at (202) 685-0667 or DSN 325-0667.

Commands with individual PSDs:

*NAVSEASYS COM	(703) 602-7527
*ONI	(301) 295-1252/1251
*NAVSECSTA Bethesda	(301) 295-0161
*NNMC Bethesda	(301) 295-4611
*White House Communication Agency	(202) 757-2000
*NAVSUPSYSCOM	(703) 607-2886

*BUMED	(202) 653-1327
*OPNAV	(703) 695-0231
*COMNAVSEGRU Bethesda	(301) 295-0161
*National Naval Dental Center	(301) 295-4611
*Naval Air Facility Andrews AFB	(301) 981-4880

- 7 *Tell me about the Metro system. Is it a safe means of transportation? Is it convenient and easy to use?*

The Metrorail system is an excellent alternative to the challenging traffic and limited parking of the D.C. area. The Metro runs on five major routes, extending into D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Passengers purchase farecards from farecard machines located just inside each Metro station. Time of day and how far you travel determine cost per ride. You may purchase one-way or round-trip tickets or purchase tickets for a set dollar amount and use them until the fare runs out. A stationmaster is available at each location to assist with metro farecard machines and to help determine routes.

For Metrorail information, hours, and routes, you may contact the customer information line at (202) 637-7000 or access their web site at <http://www.wmata.com>.

The closet Metro stop to the Naval Support Activity Washington, Anacostia Annex is the Anacostia stop off the green line. Exit the Metro station and proceed left on Howard Road. Make a right on Firth Sterling and follow it to the Navy Gate.

- 8 *Is the "Navy Yard" the same place as the Naval Support Activity Washington or the Anacostia Annex? If not, how do I get from one to the other?*

The Naval Support Activity Washington, Anacostia Annex is a distinct and separate location from the Washington Navy Yard. The Anacostia Annex is located adjacent to Bolling Air Force Base off I295 in Anacostia. The Washington Navy Yard is located across the Anacostia River in downtown Washington, D.C.

To get from the Naval Support Activity, Anacostia Annex to the Washington Navy Yard, exit the Annex by the Navy Gate and proceed straight through 3 lights. Follow the signs for 295 North and 395. Once you access the Interstate, follow the signs for the Navy yard, direction 395 South. The exit for the Navy Yard will be one of the first exits and is well marked.

- 9 *Is there a Navy Exchange located on the Naval Support Activity Washington? If so, where can I find it?*

The Navy Exchange is located on the Washington Navy Yard. Although there is not a Navy Exchange at the Anacostia Annex, the Bolling Air Force Exchange is located just five minutes away.

10. Is there a military shuttle bus service available in the area?

There are various no-cost government shuttles that run circular routes between military offices in the area. A few of the routes that are covered include Route #3 that covers Arlington Annex, the Pentagon, and Crystal City and Route #12 that covers Bolling AFB, the DIA building, and the Washington Navy Yard.